

In the Claims

Cancel claims 37-56 without prejudice

Please add the new claims 57-80.

57. (New) A method of producing a protein, comprising expressing in a cell a polynucleotide having at least one of the following properties:

a) it comprises a sequence selected from the longest open reading frame of SEQ.

ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 or fragment thereof; or

b) it hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having a sequence

selected from SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10;

wherein the protein causes increased release of TNF receptor from human cells in which TNF

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the protein causes increased release of a human TNF receptor from COS-1 cells transfected so as to express said receptor at an elevated level.

59. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the protein causes increased release of TNF receptor from Jurkat T cells.

60. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a sequence selected from the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 or fragment thereof.

61. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having a sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10.

62. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:1 or fragment thereof.

63. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:5 or fragment thereof.

64. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:6 or fragment thereof.

65. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:8 or fragment thereof.

66. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:9 or fragment thereof.

67. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:10 or fragment thereof.

68. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:1.

69. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:5.

70. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:6.

71. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:8.

72. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:9.

73. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:10.

74. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

75. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

76 (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

77. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

78. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

79. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

80. (New) The method of claim 72, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.
